

Attachment 1

Advisory Group and Public Comments

Templeton Area Advisory Group (Meeting date: Thursday, March 20th)

1. Regarding Growth Management Ordinance

- No comments.

2. Regarding Larger Minimum Parcel Sizes

- No comments.

3. Regarding Merger of Substandard Parcels

- Small community services districts can solve trouble spots (antiquated subdivisions).
- Are undeveloped property owners being involved?
- Lot merger idea will lead to sticky situations and is not a good idea.

4. Regarding TDC Program

- TDC program to transfer water potential is a bad idea – high potential for paper water.
- If you plan to increase density in areas that currently have water, eventually they too will become water poor.

5. Additional Comments

- Jardine area and other antiquated subdivisions have old, shallow wells.
- Bladder dams are better solutions to replenish groundwater basins.
- Agree that there is no one-size-fits-all solution for every area of the county.

Water Resources Advisory Committee (Meeting date: Wednesday, April 2nd)

1. Regarding Growth Management Ordinance

- No comments.

2. Regarding Larger Minimum Parcel Sizes

- Incorporate Agricultural Cluster Ordinance into the discussion to potentially limit clusters to existing parcels.
- Larger minimum parcel size requirements have potential to require more irrigation than if lots were split and remained as two lots (one with house and one as agriculture).

3. *Regarding Merger of Substandard Parcels*

- No comments.

4. *Regarding TDC Program*

- No comments.

5. *Additional Comments*

- Historic use of land in North County was for cattle grazing – was not irrigated.
- Implementing a revised, strict landscape ordinance will reduce plantings.
- A fair share of water should be implemented at the County level.
- Who will compensate property owners for lost property value due to inability to utilize own groundwater?

Santa Margarita Area Advisory Council (Meeting date: Wednesday, April 2nd)

1. *Regarding Growth Management Ordinance*

- Those antiquated subdivision lots that can find water and last for 40 years, let them develop.

2. *Regarding Larger Minimum Parcel Sizes*

- Larger minimum parcel size requirements could lead to more substandard parcels.

3. *Regarding Merger of Substandard Lots*

- Merger of substandard parcels could go awry.

4. *Regarding TDC Program*

- No comments.

5. *Additional Comments*

- Salinas River needs to be managed better – if it was, it could run naturally all the way into Monterey County again. Management could include:
 - Cutting tree limbs near river;
 - Lopez Lake and Santa Margarita are shut to chain saws – need to open to allow greater vegetation management;
 - Removing invasive trees that use extensive amounts of water;
 - Cleaning up rivers to restore to more natural conditions that contained natural, deep pools of water to allow water infiltration into groundwater basins.

- Takes five years to go through all government agencies to get anything done – if County doesn't listen, go to State, if State doesn't listen then go to Federal Government to get vegetation management done.
- Issues with Planning Department getting involved in water.
- Money is always limited in both public and private arenas.
 - Let private sector hire engineers to determine the water availability and how to obtain water.
 - Need to utilize informed science more.
- SRA's – riparian setbacks need to be revised.
- Government agencies (i.e. Fish & Game, etc) need to be coordinated with better – the hands-off approach is not serving our area at all.
- Tamarisk, cotton wood/willows and other invasive, high water demand plants should be allowed to be removed as offset mitigation.
- Need better weed control – star thistle utilizes significant amount of water each year.
- Issues with Paso Robles agricultural offset program – RCD's focus should be on weed and vegetation management this time of year.
- Retrofit-on-sale and water waste ordinance at countywide scale does not have 'bang for the buck' and should not be considered.
- Planning Department should continue to be forward thinking and focus on the bigger picture.
- Focus on landscaping plans – Santa Margarita Community Plan could be revised to update landscaping requirements.
- Should be thresholds for wastewater treatment plant requirement, whereby no LAFCO process required at some point.
- Park Hill Area – residents cannot receive water currently, are County funds available to assist?
- Agree that these problems need to be studied, but what are costs to the County and taxpayers vs. hiring outside consultants?
- Potential liabilities for County in allowing houses to be built without water.
- Local well drillers provide information to County.
 - Why not include that information in reports?
 - Community knowledge should also be included within reports.
- Ground Squirrel Hollow wells never shallow, used to be 400', now 800'. Shallow wells are 50' to 100'.
- People have been trucking in water forever in Park Hill Area.
- Wells in Park Hill area have to prove certain gallons per minute production now per County regulations.
- Agree, not all programs will be appropriate for all areas of the county.

- No management vs. too much management – County needs to find middle ground somewhere/somehow.
- Dairies in the Central Valley reusing wastewater through improved technologies - need to look to new technology to allow for better processing of wastewater for local reuse.
- County should seek out grant monies to assist the community with local water reuse projects.
- Diablo Canyon – desalination water from plant in the millions of gallons. Water from PG&E should be able to be used by the local community.
- County should look to simplify permit process for new or expanded dams on public/private lands.
- Less permitting needed for new dams.
- No permits needed for bladder dams to infiltrate water into groundwater tables.
- Those of us who use septic systems return all water we used back into ground to infiltrate groundwater basin.
- More landscape requirements will lead to less greenery which purifies our air.
- The statement ‘programs are not appropriate for all areas’ has not been heard at Board meetings.
- Whenever new programs are adopted by the Board, they always exclude the coastal zone because they can’t get programs through the Coastal Commission.
- Concerns with idea of metering new wells throughout the county.
- Not all factors are being considered with these new regulations.

Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board (Meeting date: Monday, April 7th)

1. Regarding Growth Management Ordinance

- Relaxing growth rates in Cambria is not a good idea.

2. Regarding Larger Minimum Parcel Sizes

- Skeptical that larger minimum parcel size requirements could reduce water demand on groundwater, especially in antiquated subdivision areas.
- Increasing minimum parcel sizes could lead to potential annexation by cities – this could mean more density, more people and thus more water use.
- It seems that people will have to offset anytime new residential or bare earth agriculture development is proposed in LOS III areas.
- Will farms and barns be required to be water neutral in LOS III areas?

3. *Regarding Merger of Substandard Lots*

- If you merge two contiguous lots, couldn't that allow someone to build a bigger home? Concerned that we may lose small lot neighborhood character.
- Any outreach yet to see if people support community well systems?

4. *Regarding TDC Program*

- Have you tried to incorporate purchase plans in conjunction with the TDC program? For example, a developer would have to place money into an account in order to develop and that money could then be used to retire lots and for other water conservation purposes.
- Cambria tried purchasing plan and now we have vacant lots with no money to care for the resulting open space.

5. *Additional Comments*

- Cambria is not water efficient – we need to incorporate greywater systems, use more recycled water, reduce outdoor irrigation further, and catch rainwater off houses with cisterns to be considered water efficient.
- Recycled water needs to be incorporated into available County water supply and included in County water facilities mapping - 400 million dollars now available from the State as of two weeks ago to assist in this process.
- Why are no groundwater recharge concepts being considered?
- Coastal RCD has rebate program to reimburse people for water catchment rain barrels – could this be done at a County level through the Planning Department?

Creston Advisory Body Feedback (Meeting date: Wednesday, April 16th)

1. *Regarding Growth Management Ordinance*

- No comments.

2. *Regarding Larger Minimum Parcel Sizes*

- Isn't there already a policy in the COSE that prohibits land divisions in LOS III areas?
- County should consider looking into and revisiting the Agriculture Cluster Ordinance to deal with countywide water issues.

3. *Regarding Merger of Substandard Parcels*

- Antiquated Subdivisions were created between 1905 and 1920. A lot of things, including [lot] standards, have changed since then and merger should be considered.

- I have three parcels I am interested in merging. Does the County have a way I could go about doing that?

4. *Regarding TDC Program*

- No comments.

5. *Additional Comments*

- Discussion of conflicts between residential and agricultural land uses seem to be making residential uses the blaming victim – residential users are not significant water users in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin.
- Everyone, residential and agriculture included, needs to make sacrifices.
- We do not know when this drought will end, but we need to plan as if it may never rain again.
- County needs to consider looking at demand management. For example, those who are irrigating are connected to a system that determines watering for different parcels only on certain days.
- County should look further into how land use can begin to work with and address groundwater management issues.

South County Advisory Council (Meeting date: Monday, April 28th)

1. *Regarding Growth Management Ordinance*

- No comments.

2. *Regarding Larger Minimum Parcel Sizes*

- No comments.

3. *Regarding Merger of Substandard Parcels*

- No comments.

4. *Regarding TDC Program*

- Skeptical of water saving and conservation potential of TDC programs proposed.

5. *Additional Comments*

- Why are we not talking about more storage tanks, dams or pipelines countywide?
- It sounds as if these programs proposed focus on new residential development. We know agriculture uses 80% of county water, why not focus efforts there?
- Have considerations been given to reusing Phillips 66 refinery water? They are still releasing almost 1,200 acre-feet a year into the ocean.

- County Agricultural Commissioner report states that strawberry production was up 13% countywide last year. Strawberries use a significant amount of water. Is agriculture free to do whatever they want in the County?
- If other agricultural growers increase water savings and strawberry production continues to increase, we will have no water savings or reductions in groundwater use at all.
- Are there differences between pricing of water used by agriculture and water used by residential/commercial development? If not, can we change agricultural pricing to make it equivalent to residential/commercial development pricing?
- Could Water Quality Control Board guidelines and restrictions further restrict agricultural water use and runoff?